Applicants now respectfully await the results of a first examination on the merits.

Respectfully submitted,

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3. (Amended) The compound according to claim ~~1 or~~ 2, a pharmaceutically acceptable ~~salts~~salt thereof, or ~~prodrugs~~a prodrug of ~~the~~ said compound or its ~~salts~~salt thereof, wherein Q is Q^2 (~~,~~where Q^2 represents a single bond), Q^{62}, Q^{63}, Q^{64}, Q^3 (where R^8 has the same meaning as defined above), Q^4 (where R^8 has the same meaning as defined above), Q^{17} (where R^7 has the same meaning as defined above), Q^{32} (where R^7 has the same meaning as defined above) or Q^{27} (where R^7 has the same meaning as defined above).

4. (Amended) The compound according to ~~any one of claims 1 - 3~~claim 1, apharmaceutically acceptable ~~salts~~salt thereof, or ~~prodrugs~~a prodrug of ~~the~~ said compound or ~~its~~a ~~salts~~salt thereof, wherein X^1 is -Ar-A-R^1 (wherein Ar, A and R^1 have the same meanings as defined above) and X^2 is a hydrogen atom.

5. (Amended) The compound according to ~~any one of claims 1 - 3~~claim 1, a pharmaceutically acceptable ~~salts~~salt thereof, or ~~prodrugs~~a prodrug of ~~the~~ said compound or ~~its~~a ~~salts~~salt thereof, wherein X^1 is a hydrogen atom and X^2 is -Ar-A-R^1 (wherein Ar, A and R^1 have the same meanings as defined above).

6. (Amended) The compound according to ~~any one of~~

~~claims 1 - 5~~claim 1, a pharmaceutically acceptable ~~salts~~salt thereof, or ~~prodrugs~~a prodrug of ~~the~~ said compound or ~~its~~a ~~salts~~salt thereof, wherein the dashed line forms a single bond together with the solid line.

7. (Amended) The compound according to claim 1~~, 2, 3, 4 or 6~~, a pharmaceutically acceptable ~~salts~~salt thereof, or ~~prodrugs~~a prodrug of the compound or its ~~salts~~salt, wherein the steric configuration of X^1 in 11-position is β-configuration.

8. (Amended) The compound according to claim 1~~, 2, 3, 5 or 6~~, a pharmaceutically acceptable ~~salts~~salt thereof, or ~~prodrugs~~a prodrug of the compound or its ~~salts~~salt, wherein the steric configuration of X^2 in 7-position is α-configuration.

9. (Amended) The compound according to ~~any one of claims 1 - 8~~claim 2, a pharmaceutically acceptable ~~salts~~salt thereof, or ~~prodrugs~~a prodrug of the compound or its ~~salts~~salt, wherein Z is a straight-chained or branched alkyl group having 1 - 10 carbon atoms which ~~may~~ optionally ~~be~~ is substituted by a halogen atom.

11. (Amended) The compound according to ~~any one of claims 1 - 10~~claim 2, a pharmaceutically acceptable ~~salts~~salt

thereof, or ~~prodrugs~~a prodrug of the compound or its ~~salts~~salt, wherein J is a single bond.

12. (Amended) The compound according to ~~any one of claims 1 - 11~~claim 1, a pharmaceutically acceptable ~~salts~~salt thereof, or ~~prodrugs~~a prodrug of the compound or its ~~salts~~salt, wherein Ar is a single bond.

13. (Amended) The compound according to ~~any one of claims 1 - 12~~claim 1, a pharmaceutically acceptable ~~salts~~salt thereof, or ~~prodrugs~~a prodrug of the compound or its ~~salts~~salt, wherein A is a methylene group.

14. (Amended) The compound according to ~~any one of claims 1 - 13~~claim 2, a pharmaceutically acceptable ~~salts~~salt thereof, or ~~prodrugs~~a prodrug of the compound or its ~~salts~~salt, wherein Q is Q^{62}, Q^{63} or Q^{64}.

15. (Amended) The compound according to ~~any one of claims 1 - 13~~claim 2, a pharmaceutically acceptable ~~salts~~salt thereof, or ~~prodrugs~~a prodrug of the compound or its ~~salts~~salt, wherein Q is Q^3 where R^8 is a hydrogen atom or Q^4 where R^8 is a hydrogen atom.

16. (Amended) The compound according to ~~any one of claims 1 - 13~~claim 2, a pharmaceutically acceptable ~~salts~~salt thereof, or ~~prodrugs~~a prodrug of the compound or its

~~salts~~salt, wherein Q is Q^{17} where R^7 is a hydrogen atom, Q^{32} where R^7 is a hydrogen atom or Q^{27} where R^7 is a hydrogen atom.

17. (Amended) The compound according to ~~any one of claims 1 - 11~~claim 1, a pharmaceutically acceptable ~~salts~~salt thereof, or ~~prodrugs~~a prodrug of the compound or its ~~salts~~salt, wherein Ar is an aromatic hydrocarbon group and A is -O-.

18. (Amended) The compound according to ~~any one of claims 1 - 17~~claim 2, a pharmaceutically acceptable ~~salts~~salt thereof, or ~~prodrugs~~a prodrug of the compound or its ~~salts~~salt, wherein G is an optionally substituted straight-chained alkylene group having 2 - 15 carbon atoms.

23. (Amended) The compound according to ~~any one of claims 1 - 3~~claim 1, a pharmaceutically acceptable ~~salts~~salt thereof, or ~~prodrugs~~a prodrug of the compound or its ~~salts~~salt, which is selected from ~~among~~ the group consisting of

17β-hydroxy-7α-{7-(N,N-dimethylaminocarbonyl)heptyl}-5α-androstan-3-one;

17β-hydroxy-7α-{7-(N-ethylaminocarbonyl)heptyl}-5α-androstan-3-one;

17β-hydroxy-7α-[7-(N-(isopropylaminocarbonyl)heptyl]-5α-

androstan-3-one;

17β-hydroxy-7α-[7-(N-methyl-N-butylaminocarbonyl)heptyl]-5α-androstan-3-one;

17β-hydroxy-7α-[7-(N,N-diethylaminocarbonyl)heptyl]-5α-androstan-3-one;

17β-hydroxy-7α-[7-(piperidinocarbonyl)heptyl]-5α-androstan-3-one;

17β-hydroxy-7α-[7-{N-(2-furylmethyl)aminocarbonyl}heptyl]-5α-androstan-3-one;

17β-hydroxy-7α-[7-{7-(N-methylaminocarbonyl)heptyl]-5α-androstan-3-one;

17β-hydroxy-7α-[7-(N-methyl-N-ethylaminocarbonyl)heptyl]-5α-androstan-3-one;

17β-hydroxy-7α-[7-(N-methyl-N-propylaminocarbonyl)heptyl]-5α-androstan-3-one;

17β-hydroxy-7α-[7-(N-methyl-N-isopropylaminocarbonyl)heptyl]-5α-androstan-3-one;

17β-hydroxy-7α-[7-(N-methyl-N-benzylaminocarbonyl)heptyl]-5α-androstan-3-one;

17β-hydroxy-7α-[7-(1-pyrrolidinylcarbonyl)heptyl]-5α-androstan-3-one;

17β-hydroxy-7α-[7-(morpholinocarbonyl)heptyl]-5α-androstan-3-one;

17β-hydroxy-7α-[9-(N,N-dimethylaminocarbonyl)nonyl]-5α-androstan-3-one;

17β-hydroxy-7α-[9-(N,N-diethylaminocarbonyl)nonyl]-5α-androstan-3-one;

17β-hydroxy-7α-[9-(N-methyl-N-butylaminocarbonyl)nonyl]-5α-androstan-3-one;

17β-hydroxy-7α-[9-(N-methyl-N-propylaminocarbonyl)nonyl]-5α-androstan-3-one;

17β-hydroxy-7α-[9-(morpholinocarbonyl)nonyl]-5α-androstan-3-one;

17β-hydroxy-7α-[10-(N,N-dimethylaminocarbonyl)decyl]-5α-androstan-3-one;

17β-hydroxy-7α-[7-{N-(2-hydroxyethyl)aminocarbonyl}heptyl]-5α-androstan-3-one;

17β-hydroxy-7α-[7-(N-propylaminocarbonyl)heptyl]-5α-androstan-3-one;

17β-hydroxy-7α-[7-(N-benzylaminocarbonyl)heptyl]-5α-androstan-3-one;

17β-hydroxy-7α-[7-{N-(2-phenylethyl)aminocarbonyl}heptyl]-5α-androstan-3-one;

17β-hydroxy-11β-[9-(N,N-diethylaminocarbonyl)nonyl]-5α-androstan-3-one;

17β-hydroxy-7α-[3-[3-{3-(N-

methylaminocarbonyl)propoxy}phenyl]propyl]-5α-androstan-3-one;

17β-hydroxy-7α-[3-[3-{3-(N,N-dimethylaminocarbonyl)propoxy}phenyl]propyl]-5α-androstan-3-one; and

17β-hydroxy-7α-[3-[3-{4-(1-pyrrolidinylcarbonyl)butoxy}phenyl]propyl]-5α-androstan-3-one.